



IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Currently amended) In a fastener having a drive socket for receiving a key driver having a plurality of flat surfaces and a plurality of corners at intersections between the plurality of flat surfaces, the improvement comprising:

the drive socket having a surface defining a plurality of rounded lobes of substantially equal radius located substantially equidistant from a center of the fastener and substantially equidistant circumferentially from each other, the plurality of rounded lobes receiving a set of alternating ones of said plurality of flat surfaces of the key driver;

the drive socket having a corresponding plurality of flat surfaces, each flat surface being located substantially opposite one of the rounded lobes and substantially equidistant from the center of the fastener, and the plurality of corners of the key driver remaining out of contact with said plurality of flat surfaces; and

the drive socket surface defining curved recesses smoothly transitioning between the ~~round~~ rounded lobes and the flat surfaces, and the plurality of corners of the key driver remaining out of contact with said curved recesses.

Claim 21 (Currently amended) The fastener of claim 20, wherein each of the rounded lobes projects inward toward the center of the fastener.

Claim 22 (Currently amended) The fastener of claim 20, wherein the rounded lobes are positioned to provide a first clearance between an apex of each of the rounded lobes and corresponding surfaces on a key driver inserted into the drive socket, and the

flat surfaces are positioned to provide a second clearance between the flat surfaces and corresponding surfaces on the key driver.

Claim 23 (Previously presented) The fastener of claim 22, wherein:

the first clearance is approximately 0.04 mm (0.0015 inch); and

the second clearance is approximately 0.10 mm (0.0038 inch).

Claims 24-29 (Cancelled)